

Mansfield Board of Education Meeting
January 15, 2009
Minutes

Attendees: Mary Feathers, Chair, Shamim Patwa , Vice Chair, Chris Kueffner, Secretary, Dudley Hamlin, Martha Kelly, Mark LaPlaca, Superintendent Fred Baruzzi, Board Clerk, Celeste Griffin. Comptroller, Cherie Trahan

Absent: Gary Bent, Min Lin, Katherine Paulhus

The meeting was called to order at 7:41 p.m. by Ms Feathers, Chair.

HEARING FOR VISITORS: None

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Letter from Matthew Hart, Town Manager, dated January 15, 2009 requesting the Board reduce the
2. 2008-2009 by an additional \$93,600.
3. Letter from Theo. And Amie Van Alst requesting the Board continues the support of the Suzuki program.
4. Letter from Suzanne Hathaway requesting the Board continues the support of the Suzuki program.
5. Letter from Blanche & Blair Johnson requesting the Board continues the support of the Suzuki program.

ADDITIONS TO THE PRESENT AGENDA: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Ms Feathers reported that the Building Committee is exploring information on the Four Schools Building Options.

The process will continue with an anticipated referendum in November 2010.

GOODWIN SCHOOL PTO: Lois Demurjian and Katie Irizarry, Co-Presidents reported on the many fundraising activities and support provided by the PTO to Goodwin School.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:

- Mansfield's Blueprint for Children, Leadership Work Group: Sandy Baxter, Mansfield School Readiness
- Coordinator reported on the committee's work to support the development of a comprehensive community plan
- for young children that aligns with the goals established in the Connecticut's Early Childhood Framework
- **"Ready by 5 & Fine by 9"**.
- Additional 2008-2009 Budget Reductions: **MOTION** by Mr. Kueffner, seconded by Dr. Patwa to adjust the

- 2008-2009 budget as requested by the Town Council. Mr. Baruzzi informed the Board that he initiated a
- discretionary freeze in spending for the remainder of the 2008-2009 budget year.
- 2009-2010 Proposed Budget: Mr. Baruzzi presented the Board with the proposed budget of \$20,830,570
- (-.48% from 2008-2009 budget).
- K-12 Regionalization: The Region 19 Board of Education will be organizing a preliminary study of possible
- K-12 regionalization, which will include representatives from the Region 19 sending schools. Dr. Patwa
- expressed interest in serving as our representative.
- Enhancing Student Achievement: Two more activities have been approved. Administrators have seen increased
- student achievement.
- Enrollment/Class Size: The principals noted no significant changes in enrollment.

NEW BUSINESS: None

CONSENT AGENDA: **MOTION** by Dr. Patwa, seconded Mr. Kueffner that the following item for the Board of Education meeting of January 15, 2009 be approved or received for the record:

That the Mansfield Public Schools Board of Education approves the minutes of the December 11, 2008 Board meeting.

VOTE: Unanimous in favor.

HEARING FOR VISITORS: NONE

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA: Prioritization of possible further budget reductions

EXECUTIVE SESSION: **MOTION** by Mr. LaPlaca, seconded Mrs. Kelly to move into Executive Session at 10:02pm to discuss collective bargaining contract negotiations. **VOTE:** Unanimous in favor.

MOTION by Mr. Hamlin, seconded by Mrs. Kelly to return to open session at 10:44pm. **VOTE:** Unanimous in favor.

MOTION by Mr. Hamlin, seconded by Mrs. Kelly to adjourn at 10:45pm. **VOTE:** Unanimous in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Celeste N. Griffin, Board Clerk